

CPYRGHT

Assassination Bureau Inc.

L. NATARAJAN

CPYRGHT

LETTING my 45 Colt automatic I fired two shots. One bullet hit Trujillo in the chin, the other in the chest. He reeled fell to the floor, and lay there over, spread-eagled, motionless."

The above passage is from a coldblooded account by Antonio Imbert, the former governor of the Puerto Plata province in the Dominican Republic about the assassination on May 30 1961, of Rafeal Leonidas Trujillo Molina who for thirty years had ruled the nation with an iron hand of ruthless dictatorship. Trujillo was killed by the agents of the North American intelligence service and the report was published by *The New York Times*.

Imbert was one of the key figures in the plot engineered by the North American intelligence service.

Weapons in Metal Cans

In its issue of August 13, 1963, the American magazine *New Republic* concluded that Trujillo was not killed without the participation of the Central Intelligence Agency. The magazine pointed out that the U.S. Consul in Santo Domingo (then Cuidad Trujillo), Henry Dearborn, and the chief political counsellor of the Consulate, John Barfield took part in the organisation of the plot.

Barfield was one of the key CIA men in the Dominican Republic. He acted through his assistant

This spotlight on the activities of Anglo-American intelligence is by the distinguished author of the celebrated best-seller, American Shadow over India. His other book, From Hiroshima to Bandung, made a survey of American policies in Asia up till 1955. The present work is going to be serialised in Mainstream during the next few weeks.

Lawrence Berry, the owner of a supermarket in the Dominican capital. It was through Berry that the American intelligence service established and maintained contacts with the former mayor of Santo Domingo, Luis Amiata Tio. Berry put Tio in contact with the special representative of the American intelligence service known under the assumed name of Plato Cox.

US Weapons

Also through Tio, Trujillo's childhood friend, General Juan Tomas Dias, the Defence Minister, General Jose Roman Fernandez, lumber manufacturer Antonio de la Mas, and Pedro Livio Cedemio had been involved in the assassination plot.

The conspirators obtained weapons from the United States through Berry who received them tightly sealed in large metal cans.

But when everything was ready, an unexpected order came from Washington. It said, in brief, that because of the failure of the landing in Cuba organised by the CIA on April 17, 1961, the assassination of Trujillo should be delayed.

But the machinery of the plot had already been operating full blast at the time. On May 30 1961, late at night Trujillo was assassinated on the road from Santo Domingo to San Cristobal. A group of conspirators led by Antonio Imbert stopped the limousine in which Trujillo was going unprotected to his La Fundacion estate where his 20-year old mistress Mona Sanchez was waiting for him. Twenty seven shots were fired at Trujillo.

The conspirators failed to seize power. But the American intelligence service reached its goal: a man had been liquidated who by his ruthless dictatorship

led the country to the brink of revolution. For these Washington partners and former protectors, Trujillo had become too hot-headed. The U.S. intelligence was ordered to eliminate the dictator while it was not too late, that is before he would bring his nation to the point of explosion which put an end to Batista's dictatorship in Cuba in 1959 and resulted in a tangle of complex problems for Washington to solve in that world area.

Conspirators Liquidated

The following incident is noteworthy. When the authorities of the Dominican Republic got to the main levers of the plot, they killed many of the conspirators as well. General Dias was shot dead in the street, General Hernandez was tortured to death, and only two participants in the conspiracy, Luis Amiama Tio and Antonio Imbert were left alive. The North American participants in the plot went completely unscathed. Consul Dearborn, Counsellor Barfeild and businessman Berry safely reached the United States. Today, Berry has a supermarket in the centre of the Dominican capital. Following the bloody events of 1961, Dearborn was appointed Consul in Columbia. Barfield filled a post in the State Department in the office of Under Secretary for Inter-American Affairs.

The assassinations of political enemies and people who had ceased being of use for Washington, have become an important, albeit a secret, instrument of US national policy. This bloody instrument has been legalised in a special law on the basis of which a system of centralised intelligence has been established in that country. This law, brought into force, on July 26 1947, and is known as the National Security Act of 1947. The Act unified the direction and administration of the three services of the United States armed forces in the Defence Department and instituted the Central Intelligence Agency.

The passing of this law had been preceded by heated debates in the Congress and beyond

DECEMBER 31, 1966

13